(c) and (d). The major competitors are Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, China, USA, UK, Phillipines, etc. To maintain the competitiveness of Indian exports, the exporters have been encouraged to have better publicity material, brand promotion, effective participation in international trade fairs, improvement in product and packaging, etc.

[*Translation*]

Construction of National Highway with Help of Foregn Contractors

6911. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopted foreign technology for reconstruction national highways and also propose to utilize the services of foreign constractors for this purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Basically, National Highway works are being executed with latest practices appropriate to the Indian conditions. Modernisation of road construction technology is a gradual process and efforts are being made continuously to bring about improvements, keeping in view any new techniques adopted by the other countries. Works on National Highways are being carried out by Indian contractors normally. However, projects taken up with external loan assistance are open to foreign contractors or joint ventures formed by then also, as per conditions of the loan assistance. For projects proposed to be taken up in near future with assistance from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), foreign contractors will be allowed to bid provided they have been prequalified.

[*English*]

World Bank Aided Projects in Bihar

6912. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the brief particulars of the World Bank aided projects in Bihar with their location, estimated cost, proposed assistance by the World Bank, date of commencement and the estimated date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): A list of World Bank aided projects in Bihar, with their location, estimated cost, aid commitment, date of commencement & the estimated date of completion is given in the statement attached.